

Collect for The 1st Sunday of Epiphany:

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion prayer:

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER POINTS:

- For the Christian Pastoral Aid Society.
- For our clergy, churchwardens, PCC and all those who volunteer at St Mary's.
- For peace and a resolution to the conflict between US and Iran.
- For all those affected by the fires in Australia & those working in the emergency services.
- For the families of those killed in the Ukrainian air crash.
- For those caught up in the conflicts in Libya, Syria and Somalia.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF HEALING AND PEACE:

Matteo Bellini, Philippa King, Maggie Wooster, Suzie Aries, Fred and Jenny Deverill, Frances Goodchild, Rob and Sally Goodchild, Marion Long, Joseph Fell, Iris Austin, Norman Edwards, John Hardy, Debby and Jim Cadwallader, The Goodridge family, Richard Hayward, Shirley and Eric Watts, Liz and Paul Bracken, Michael Hopkins, Kelly May, Joyce Bapty, Richard Heaney, Alex Lake, Barbara Higgins, Simon Clegg.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PRAY FOR:

Mel Rolfe, Gideon, Mary Jefferies, Keith & Judy Brambleby, Barbara Platts, Tony Mead, Hazel Boon, Helena Oecken, Jean Moses, Bill & Marge Philips, Jean Coleman, Liz Lister and Mary Williams.

WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THE LIVES OF:

Josephine Hipwell, Eunice Clifford, Eva Lloyd and Rosa Lidington.

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Open: Mon & Tues: 9:30am -1.30pm, Weds & Thurs 9:30am -5.00pm

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St Mary's
with
St Peter's
PRINCES RISBOROUGH
& ILMER

News

Sunday January 12th 2020, First Sunday after Epiphany

Dear Friends

This Sunday we start a new sermon series which covers revisiting our Core Values and you should have received a GRACE memory card and a copy of our 2020 Vision document. We all need to review our lives as Christians and consider how best we can flourish in our faith.

The Bible is always the best place to start to solve any problem. It is amazing how the habit of regular Bible study tends to reveal just what we need when we want it. I find my daily Bible reading notes frequently provide either the solution to an issue that was bothering me or a thought that prompted me to progress further in my faith.

Bible study often prompts us to pray and prayer is always the right thing to do. St Paul tells the Thessalonians to 'Pray continually' and we do well to remember that. This doesn't mean that we have to be actively talking to God non-stop; it means that we need to be constantly open to God's presence with us and to be still and simply enjoy the experience of sharing our lives with him. Possibly the most important element of prayer is listening for that still, small voice of calm prompting us in the right direction.

One of the things we need to do before our prayer can be effective is to pause and consider just who it is that we are praying to. We are praying to a God who is sufficiently intimate to be able to love us and sustain us personally yet he is the same God who made the universe and everything that is in it. As soon as we start to realise just how great our God is, we cannot fail to want to praise and worship him.

Jesus' great commission to his disciples just before his ascension was to 'Go and make disciples' and that command is just as relevant to us today. If our God is so great and wonderful and loving then surely we should be telling other people about him and sharing the good news with them. That doesn't mean that we all have to go and be missionaries but there is a God-given task for each one of us to be a disciple and, hopefully, to be able to make a disciple of someone else. As we grow in our faith, maybe God will open a door for us and show us the path he wants us to take.

Peter Cline

NEWS & NOTICES.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL: A huge **THANK YOU** to all who gave so generously towards our Christmas appeal to help the hospital where Nicci Maxwell, our CMS mission partner works in Uganda. The good news is that we raised the money needed for a new oxygen concentrator for their children's hospital and we raised over our target set to raise £850! Please see Kaye Lillycrop if you would like further information.

WINTER SERMON SERIES: Starts this week and will be entitled 'Revisiting our core values-GRACE.'

ALPHA: 'I hope everyone was able to give something that people truly wanted this Christmas, now offer them something they truly need. Invite a loved one, a friend, work colleague, neighbour to Alpha. It might just make their year even better. It might just change their life. Begins Wednesday 29th January at 7.30pm. Email stmarysprcurate@gmail.com for more info' Pat.

MESSY CHURCH: Forget the spring clean, let's get 'Messy'. A ministry that reaches out to all in our community. Come and be a part of this fabulous ministry. All gifts and talents needed. Training morning with lunch on Saturday Feb 1st 11-1:30. To book a place contact stmarysprcurate@gmail.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The first men's breakfast this year will be on Saturday 11th January at 8.45am in the Church Hall. Contact Phil on philince@gmail.com if you could like to attend.

LADIES' BREAKFAST: The next Ladies' breakfast will be on 18th January at 9am in St Mary's.

HOLIDAY AT HOME: Can it really be that time of year already? This year, our holiday will be on Weds February 18th and Thurs Feb 19th and will be a 'bookfest'! Come and meet some of the characters from your favourite books and spend a couple of days on activities and entertainment on a literary theme. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Gill on gill.sunfold@googlemail.com or the Church Office. Offers of help would also be greatly appreciated.

CHRISTIAN NIGHTLIFE INITIATIVE: have produced an inspirational new prayer and action guide. The Guide is based on the work of local Street Angels, Club Angels and Festival Angels who see how prayer and action can and does change communities and people. The free 30days Guide can be found at cninetwork.org/30days. There is also a copy in the lady chapel.

CHILDREN'S WORKER: This role is now being advertised and a copy is on the children's noticeboard. Please pray that we receive applications so we can appoint someone in the summer.

Sunday 12th January, 1st Sunday of Epiphany

Winter Sermon Series: Church core values 'Growing in God'

Readings: Psalm 92: 1 - 15, Luke 2: 41 - 52

8.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee

11.15am TGIS with children's groups

What's on in the week beginning Monday 13th January

Mon 13th 3.00pm Bereavement Drop-in in the Chapter House

Weds 15th 8.30am Morning Prayer in St Mary's

9.00am Wednesday Prayers in St Mary's

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's followed by coffee

Thurs 16th 10.30am Coffee in the Chapter House

Fri 17th 2.00pm Praise & Play

Sat 18th 9.00am Ladies' Breakfast in Church

Sunday 19th January, 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Winter Sermon Series: 'Relationships Matter'

Readings: 1 Samuel 18: 1-4; 20:12-17, 41-42, Matthew 4: 12-23

8.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

9.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Ilmer

9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee

11.15am TGIS with children's groups

3.00pm CTR Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St John's, Lacey Green

Rector: Revd. David Williams 346984

Associate Minister: Revd. Michael Hunt 344150 **Curate:** Revd Pat Kerr 273980

Assistant Clergy: Revds. David & Nancy Wallace 290670;

Revds. Steve & Rose Williams 274225; Canon Nick Molony 273895;

Revd. Jenny Deverill 274269; **LLM:** Averil Stephenson 343649

Churchwardens: David Stephenson and Bryan Matthew